

Falls of Ohio



THE RAPIDS OF OHIO,

Are occasioned by a ledge of rocks which extend quite across the river, and are hardly to be perceived by the navigator in times of high freshes, unless by the superior velocity of the boat, which descends over them at the rate of from 10 to 13 miles an hour. When the water is low, the greater part of the rock becomes visible, and it is then that the passage becomes dangerous.

There are three channels or passes through the rapids: The course north or right of No. 62 or Goose island, called the *Indian schute*, is the main channel, but it is not passable in times of low water. The course between Nos. 62 and 63, Rock and Goose islands, called the *Middle schute*, is a safe and easy passage in all situations of the water above the middling stage. The pass between No. 63, Rock island, and the Kentucky shore, called the *Kentucky schute*, is lost in Rock harbor, and is passable only in time of high water.

Near the bottom on the left side of No. 63 is a fine mooring place for boats, called *Rock Harbor*. It is opposite the upper end of Shippingport, and has water enough at all seasons for vessels of any burthen.

No. 64 Sandy island, may be passed on the right in high water only. The left or south pass is the main channel. From No. 64, to No. 63, is excellent mooring ground, and water enough for vessels of any tonnage.

The pass south of Corn island No. 61, and the Kentucky shore, is passable only in time of high water.

From the great danger in passing the rapids, the courts of Louisville and Jeffersonville have been very careful to appoint experienced and trusty men as pilots, who can always be had at a moment's warning to conduct boats and vessels over them; and from a little ambition shewn by the pilots of both places to excel in their occupation, accidents, arising from the want of either skill or care, very seldom happen.

In levelling the descent of the rapids, they have been found to be $22\frac{1}{2}$ feet in two miles, the distance from Bear Grass creek to the foot of the falls.

Two miles above the rapids the river is deep, and three quarters of a mile broad; and in low water the channel is contracted to the breadth of 250 yards.

LOUISVILLE,

Is situated at the mouth of Bear Grass creek and extends down the Ohio to opposite the middle of Corn island, No. 61. It stands on an eminence of about 70 feet in height, which gently descends to a narrow plain along the river side in front of the town. From the lower end of the town the brow of the eminence takes its course to the Ohio, opposite Sandy island, No. 64, leaving a high plain between it and the river. It contains about 250 houses, a printing office, several mercantile stores and warehouses, a post office, is a port of entry, and the seat of justice for Jefferson county (Ken.) Lat. $38^{\circ} 8' N$.

Louisville has several rope walks extensively carried on. Messrs. Anderson and Gwathmey had a valuable bagging manufactory, but which was burnt down in December 1810, by design, it is supposed. This is the second loss of the kind these gentlemen have experienced within eighteen months.

There have been a variety of circumstances which have operated against Louisville, and which have kept the improvements of the town constantly on the back-ground, notwithstanding its superior and commanding situation, for a manufacturing and commercial town.—These circumstances, let them have arisen from what they might, are beginning to dispel, and like the sun after having been enveloped for a length of time in clouds and mists, and by degrees breaking through them, shines forth with redoubled vigour.—Such we believe and hope to be the situation of Louisville.

The river opposite Louisville is 1 mile and 25 poles wide, and commands a most charming view both above and below for a great distance, and the eye is carried over an extent of level country, terminated by the hills of Silver creek, which are five miles distant.

A canal has been proposed to be cut on the Kentucky side, to commence a little below Bear Grass creek, and open below Shippingport, a distance of 588 perches, or one mile and three quarters and twenty eight perches.—The accomplishment of this object indeed would be a happy event to the trade of the Ohio. The highest ground through which the canal would have to be taken, would not exceed 29 feet, and its average depth would be 20 feet 6 inches. The route throughout is a stiff clay, lying up-

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